

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 25: (canceled).

26 (currently amended): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides characterized by using as a feed material a mixed powder of a powder containing both iron oxide and zinc oxide and/or lead oxide and a powder containing carbon and containing alkali metals and halogen elements ~~in a ratio alkali/(zinc + lead) between a total of the number of moles of alkali salts and a total of the number of moles of lead of at least 0.1~~ wherein an alkali/(zinc + lead) ratio is at least 0.1, where alkali is total moles of alkali salts and (zinc + lead) is total moles of zinc + lead,

mixing said feed material with water to produce a slurry having a pH of 7 to 11.5,

then dehydrating this, and charging said dehydrated material into a rotary hearth type reduction furnace for reduction, said rotary hearth type reduction furnace provided with an exhaust gas treatment facility having at least one of a waste heat boiler and an air preheater.

27(currently amended): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides characterized by using as a feed material a mixed powder of a powder containing both iron oxide and zinc oxide and/or lead oxide and containing alkali metals and halogen elements ~~in a ratio alkali/(zinc + lead) between a total of the number of moles of alkali salts and a total of the number of moles of lead of at least 0.1~~ wherein an alkali/(zinc + lead) ratio is at least 0.1, where alkali is total moles of alkali salts and (zinc + lead) is total moles of zinc + lead,

mixing said feed material with water to produce a slurry having a pH of 7 to 11.5,

then dehydrating this, mixing the dehydrated material with another feed material, and charging said mixture into a rotary hearth type reduction furnace for reduction, said rotary hearth type reduction furnace provided with an exhaust gas treatment facility having at least one of a waste heat boiler and an air preheater.

28 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides as set forth in claim 26 or 27, characterized in that said powder contains a total of at least 0.1 mass% of alkali metals and halogen elements.

29 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides as set forth in claim 26 or 27, characterized in that a mass ratio of powder and water in said slurry is at least 1:1.5 and a mass ratio of powder and water in said dehydrated material is not more than 1:0.4.

30 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides as set forth in claim 26 or 27, characterized by heating and agitating the slurry at 80°C or less in the production of said slurry.

31 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides as set forth in claim 26 or 27, characterized by shaping said dehydrated material into moist shaped articles having a porosity of at least 35% and charging said shaped articles into a rotary hearth type reduction furnace for reduction without drying.

32 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides as set forth in claim 31, characterized by making a mass ratio of powder and water in said dehydrated material 1:0.2 to 1:0.4 and shaping said dehydrated material into moist shaped articles having an average volume of not more than 10000 mm³.

33 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides as set forth in claim 32, characterized by making a molar ratio of oxygen and carbon contained

in said shaped articles 1:0.6 to 1:1.5, charging said shaped articles into a rotary hearth type reduction furnace, and reducing them by leaving them for at least 8 minutes at the part of the furnace having a gas temperature or 1200°C or more.

Claim 34: (canceled).

35 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of metal oxides as set forth in claim 26 or 27, characterized in that said powder is steelmaking waste.

Claim 36: (canceled).

37 (currently amended): A method of reduction treatment of steelmaking waste characterized by:

mixing by agitation steelmaking waste, a pH adjuster, and a carbon-bearing material in water, then concentrating the mixture to produce a slurry,

wherein said pH adjuster is at least one of a substance containing OH-groups and fly ash discharged from a refuse melting furnace or incinerator furnace,

pressing said slurry to dehydrate it,

extruding said dehydrated material to shape it into shaped articles,

charging said shaped articles into a moving hearth type reduction furnace for reduction and recovering the secondary dust containing zinc oxide produced.

38 (currently amended): A method of reduction treatment of steelmaking waste characterized by:

stirring and mixing steelmaking waste and a pH adjuster in water, then concentrating the mixture to produce a slurry,

wherein said pH adjuster is at least one of a substance containing OH-groups and fly ash discharged from a refuse melting furnace or incinerator furnace,

pressing said slurry to dehydrate it,

adding and kneading a carbon-bearing material into said dehydrated material,

extruding said dehydrated material to shape it into shaped articles,
charging said shaped articles into a moving hearth type reduction furnace for reduction and recovering the secondary dust containing zinc oxide produced.

Claims 39 and 40: (canceled).

41 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of steel making waste as set forth in claim 37 or 38, characterized in that a pH of the slurry adjusted in pH by said pH adjuster is at least 8.

42 (previously presented): A method of reduction treatment of steelmaking waste as set forth in claim 37 or 38, characterized in that said dehydrated material contains moisture in an amount of 16 to 27 mass% of said dehydrated material.

43 (new): A method of concentrating and recovering zinc and/or lead according to claim 26 or 27 comprising:

producing an exhaust gas by reducing said dehydrated slurry in said rotatory hearth type reduction furnace,

recovering dust in said exhaust gas as a feed material for concentrating and recovering zinc and/or lead.--